

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10782 221124Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7832

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR OPEN SKIES -- GOP TO RELAX TRAVEL BAN

1. SECRETARY OF TOURISM ASPIRAS HAS PROPOSED, AND PRESIDENT MARCOS IS APPARENTLY READY TO ACCEPT, A POLICY OF RELAXING THE BAN ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY FILIPINOS. THE NEW POLICY INVOLVES EMULATION OF THE "BRAZILIAN MODEL" UNDER WHICH A TOURIST TRAVELER MUST DEPOSIT 10,000 PESOS FOR ONE YEAR WITH THE CENTRAL BANK. THE DEPOSIT WOULD BE FOREITED IF THE TRAVELER DOES NOT RETURN. THE INTEREST ON THE DEPOSIT WOULD ACCRUE TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM WHICH WOULD USE THE PROCEEDS TO FINANCE THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO THE PHILIPPINES.

2. ASPIRAS IS ACTIVELY PUSHING THE PROPOSAL IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN AIRLINES TO FLY MORE FREQUENTLY TO THE PHILIPPINES. THIRD COUNTRY CARRIERS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES WHILE THE TRAVEL BAN REMAINS IN EFFECT. SEE MANILA 10199.

3. THERE IS ALSO AN ELEMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS BEHIND THE TOURISM PROPOSAL WHICH SEEMS TO ENJOY SUPPORT IN OTHER AGENCIES. THE GOP APPARENTLY WANTS TO RELAX THE TRAVEL BAN BEFORE THE IMF/IBRD MEETING. HOW THIS WOULD IMPRESS

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PAGE 02 MANILA 10782 221124Z

THE IMF/IBRD GATHERING IS DIFFICULT TO FATHOM, BUT GOP

OFFICIALS SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT RELAXATION WOULD FORESTALL
CRITICISMS OR UNFAVORABLE COMMENT BY FILIPINOS ON THE
TRAVEL BAN. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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